



Pete^{the} Cat

Documents for Informational Purposes Only:

- 1) "Nebraska Reads" Booklet
- 2) "You're on your way to K!" Form
- 3) "Back-to-School Family Checklist" Form
- 4) "Kindergarten Readiness Skills" Form
- 5) "Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations" Form
- 6) "Sickness Reference Guide" Form



Nebraska READS



A Vision of Literacy for Nebraska Students

“The ability to read is one of the most important skills for children to master. It is our responsibility to help Nebraska students become successful readers, writers, and communicators so that they can engage as productive members of our society. This includes working towards the goal that all Nebraska students are reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade.”

NebraskaREADS provides tools and resources to support high-quality literacy instruction for all Nebraska students. The initiative highlights policies, procedures, and practices that guide the selection and implementation of literacy practices and evidence-based interventions, and assists districts as they build family, community, and school partnerships to help students become successful readers, setting them up to learn, graduate, and succeed.”

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Reading is the KEY to learning



A student's ability to read is a critical predictor of academic and lifelong success. The **Nebraska Reading Improvement Act** (Section 79-2601-79-2607) ensures all students are ready for success in school and beyond. Starting in kindergarten, strong reading policy and programs help students get on track to grade-level reading. The Nebraska Reading Improvement Act and the Nebraska READS initiative are designed to give students every opportunity to gain proficiency in early literacy skills that will enable later access to comprehension and analysis of complex text.

According to a report by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) and the Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), "Without adequate reading and comprehension skills, an individual's ability to pursue their field(s) of interest, to become and remain self-sufficient, and to engage productively in society are greatly curtailed." Many states across the nation have recognized the need to bring renewed focus to early intervention for struggling readers. The Nebraska Reading Improvement

Act and Nebraska READS initiative emphasize the need for pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade students to have access to high-quality instruction, and for struggling readers to receive targeted, individualized support. With these supports in place, we can achieve greater equity and assure ALL Nebraska students can read independently and learn about their world from complex texts across content areas.

Fourth grade is an important year for students. That is when they make a bigger transition from learning how to read to reading more on their own. There is a higher expectation for students to be able to read independently and understand what they are reading. Entering fourth grade as a grade level reader can enable a student to read independently, comprehend facts in social studies and science, understand word problems in math, and interpret increasingly complex texts in all content areas. When students enter fourth grade with strong reading skills, they are better positioned for success in the classroom, high school graduation, and readiness for college and career.

The Nebraska Reading Improvement Act – Nebraska's Approach to Literacy

- In 2018, Nebraska's Reading Improvement Act was enacted. The Nebraska Reading Improvement Act, which goes into effect for the 2019-2020 school year, takes a comprehensive approach to improve the reading skills of students in kindergarten through third grade. It is designed to provide reading instruction based on what works to position all students for success as they progress through their education journey and into college and career readiness. The heart of the program is early identification of students who need extra reading help so that they receive targeted intervention. The following are key components of the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act:
 - **NDE:** NDE will provide a list of approved reading assessments and the threshold level of performance for each assessment.
 - **School Boards:** School Boards may develop policies for reading instruction and intervention services to address all students' reading needs.
 - **Teachers:** K-3 teachers must be effective based on classroom observations and student improvement in reading, or receive specialized training in early literacy.
 - **Assessment:** All K-3 students are assessed three times per year with an approved reading assessment to measure progress and to support teachers with targeted instruction to meet individual student needs.
 - **Early Identification:** Within the first 30 days of school, schools and districts use the approved reading assessment to assess students in kindergarten through third grade to identify those who may have a reading difficulty.
 - **Parent Engagement:** All parents or guardians of K-3 grade students are kept informed of their child's reading progress and parents or guardians of students who are identified with a reading difficulty are notified in writing no later than 15 days after the identification.
 - **Supplemental Reading Intervention Programs:** Any student identified with a reading difficulty must be provided a supplemental intervention program. The supplemental reading intervention program should be implemented during regular school hours in addition to regularly scheduled reading instruction unless otherwise agreed to by a parent or guardian.
 - **Individual Reading Improvement Plans:** Any student identified with a reading difficulty will receive an individual reading improvement plan no later than 30 days after identification. The plan is created in collaboration with the parent or guardian and describes the reading intervention services and support the student will receive through the supplemental reading intervention program.
 - **Summer Reading Program:** Summer reading programs are to be made available by schools for any student in grade 1-3 who has been identified as continuing to have a reading difficulty. Such programs may be community-based (not affiliated with the school) or offered online.

You're on your way to K!

The transition to kindergarten is respected as a major milestone not only for the child, but for his or her family as well. The attitude towards school and learning that the child carries with them for life is often determined by this very first experience with school. A smooth transition to kindergarten can help make sure your child is successful in school.

The information provided below is designed to help you prepare your children for their school experience.

You bet, I'm ready for K!

Personal Needs Without help, can they...

- ☐ Put on and take off coat
- ☐ Tie their own shoes
- ☐ Wash their hands
- ☐ Snap, button, zip, and buckle

Social Skills Can they ...

- ☐ Listen to an adult & follow simple instructions
- ☐ Cooperate with other children
- ☐ Sit for short periods of time
- ☐ Follow simple two-step directions

Intellectual Skills Do your children...

- ☐ Sit and listen to a story
- ☐ Hold a book upright and turn the pages
- ☐ Know their first and last name
- ☐ Tell and retell familiar stories
- ☐ Know colors, shapes and sizes
- ☐ Counts 0-10

Intellectual Skills {continued}

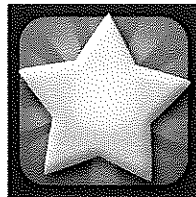
- ☐ Saying the ABC's
- ☐ Holds scissors & pencil appropriately
- ☐ Recognizes and writes first name (remember- use capital letter for the first letter in a name.) M-a-t-t, not M-A-T-T
- ☐ Recognizes the letters within their name

To help with a smooth transition into kindergarten you can follow these additional helpful ideas; provide opportunities to play with other children, teach your children socially acceptable ways to disagree, and encourage social values such as helpfulness, cooperation, sharing and concern for others.

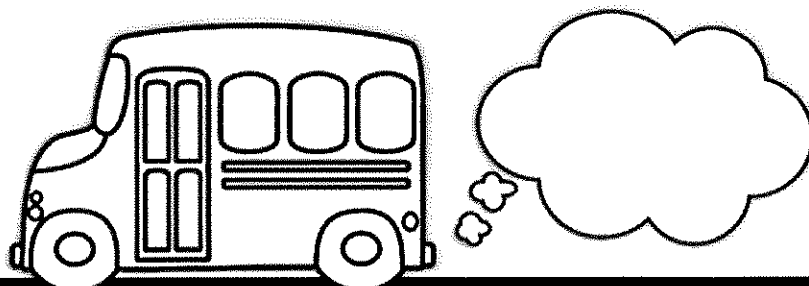
•Additional Resources•



The Leap Frog Letter Factory DVD is a fun and engaging way to teach children the letters and the sounds of the alphabet.



Starfall.com has several free educational videos and games for teaching children the letters of the alphabet, and more!





For All Parents/Caregivers

- ☐ Make sure required and recommended immunizations are up-to-date.
- ☐ Review hygiene tips to prevent the spread of infections.
- ☐ Establish a bedtime and wake-up time to ensure adequate and consistent sleep.
- ☐ Develop a routine for homework and after-school activities.
- ☐ Eat breakfast each day at home or at school.
- ☐ Help make appropriate clothing choices, e.g., wear comfortable and safe shoes.
- ☐ Keep an open line of communication with your child to ensure that he/she remains safe at school. If a concern arises, e.g., bullying, contact the appropriate school officials immediately.
- ☐ Get involved! Sign up for the parent organization (PTA/PTO), school Wellness Committee, and mark events such as back-to-school night and parent/teacher meetings on your calendar.
- ☐ Ask about the school or district's wellness policy, e.g., how are nutrition, activity, stress and/or mental health concerns addressed?
- ☐ Know the specialized instructional support personnel available to your child including the school nurse and school counselor.
- ☐ Know your school's policy regarding when to keep a sick child home.

If Your Student Has a Health Concern

- ☐ Make your child's health concern known to the school and school nurse.
- ☐ Bring current, signed healthcare provider orders for treatments and all medications to be given at school. Bring the medication in the original pharmacy container.
- ☐ Together with the school nurse and other appropriate school officials, develop an individualized healthcare plan or other educational plan as needed, e.g., 504 and IEP.
- ☐ Give permission for the school nurse to communicate with your family's healthcare provider.
- ☐ Provide parent/caregiver contact information and update the school with any changes.
- ☐ Ask if non-nurses will be providing care and how these authorized individuals will be supervised, e.g., verify who will administer medication.
- ☐ Confirm the school's disaster and/or emergency plan. Make sure your child's medication and/or medical devices, e.g., epinephrine auto-injectors, asthma inhalers, and insulin, will be readily available in an emergency.
- ☐ Let the school know how important it is to have a full-time registered school nurse in the building all day, every day.
- ☐ Introduce yourself and your child to the school nurse.

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BETTER HEALTH. BETTER LEARNING.™





Kindergarten Readiness Skills

As you complete each task, please check it off. When the calendar is complete, erase and start from the beginning. Continue until the first day of kindergarten!



Read a book and talk about it.	Make number cards 0-10 and practice saying them.	Practice writing your first name.	Practice saying the alphabet.	Practice saying your first and last name.	Practice counting to 20.	Make alphabet cards and practice saying them.
-Write your first name. -Cut it apart. -Put together.	Practice cutting with scissors.	Make up a story together.	Make a color pattern.	Practice writing your first name.	Look in the newspaper for the letters in your name and cut it out.	Find and count all of the squares in your house.
Write a letter to your teacher.	Find and count all of the circles in your house.	Practice writing your name with different colored crayons.	Find and count all of the rectangles in your house.	Practice saying your birthdate.	Find and count all of the triangles in your house.	Count how many days until school starts.
Sort your toys by big and little.	Practice tying your shoes.	Sort your toys by color.	Write your name using sidewalk chalk.	Name three words that rhyme with dog.	Think of words that start with the same letter as your name.	Draw a circle, square, triangle, and rectangle.
Write the numbers you see on the calendar.	Name three words that rhyme with bat.	Read a book and talk about the characters and setting.	Practice zipping your coat.	Name three words that rhyme with book.	Practice your phone number.	Look for these colors: red, blue, green, yellow, orange.

Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations


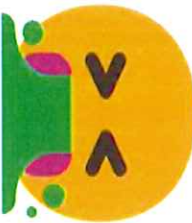
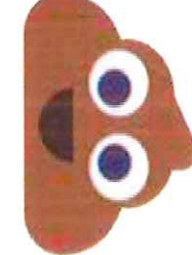


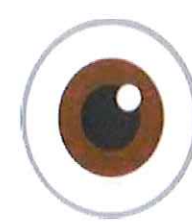

Student Age Group	Required Vaccines
Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider	<p>4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine</p> <p>3 doses of Polio vaccine</p> <p>3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age</p> <p>3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine</p> <p>1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age</p> <p>1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted.</p> <p>4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age</p>
Students entering school (Kindergarten or 1 st Grade depending on the school district's entering grade)	<p>3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4th birthday</p> <p>3 doses of Polio vaccine</p> <p>3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age</p> <p>2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month</p> <p>2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.</p>
Students entering 7 th grade	<p>Must be current with the above vaccinations</p> <p>AND receive</p> <p>1 dose of Tdap (contain Pertussis booster)</p>
Students transferring from outside the state at any grade	Must be immunized appropriately according to the grade entered.

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. . For additional information, call 402-471-6423.

The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/reg_t173.aspx (Title 173: Control of Communicable Diseases - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011)
Updated 01/26/2018

Sickness Reference Guide

I need to stay home if ...

I have a fever	I am vomiting	I have diarrhea	I have a rash	I have head lice	I have an eye infection	I have been in the hospital
						

Temperature of 100 or higher	Within the past 24 hours	Within the past 24 hours	Body rash with itching or fever	Itchy head, active head lice	Redness, itching and/or "crusty" drainage from eye	Hospital stay and/or ER visit
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I am ready to go back to school when I am ...

Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication i.e. Tylenol, Motrin	Free from vomiting for at least 2 solid meals	Free from diarrhea for at least 24 hours	Free from rash, itching, or fever. I have been evaluated by my doctor if needed	Treated with appropriate lice treatment at home	Evaluated by my doctor and have a note to return to school	Released by my medical provider to return to school
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